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QUESTION OF PALESTINE
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
CONSEQUENCES OF THE IRAQI OCCUPATION OF AND AGGRESSION AGAINST KUWAIT
ESTABLISHMENT OF A NUCLEAR-WEAPON-FREE ZONE IN THE REGION OF THE MIDDLE EAST
CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS
GENERAL AND COMPLETE DISARMAMENT
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR THE ERADICATION OF POVERTY IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL LAW COMMISSION ON THE WORK OF ITS FORTY-FOURTH SESSION

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-seventh year

Letter dated 15 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I am transmitting to you herewith the text of a statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries at their sixth meeting, held at Doha, Qatar, on 9 and 10 September 1992.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under items 30, 35, 46, 55, 60, 61, 82 and 131 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Hassan Ali Hussein AL-NI'MAH
Permanent Representative

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ANNEX

Statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries at their sixth meeting, held at Doha on 9 and 10 September 1992

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries held their sixth meeting on 9 and 10 September 1992 at Doha, Qatar, under the chairmanship of His Excellency Sheikh Hamid Bin Jasim Bin Jaber Al Thani, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar, and with the following in attendance:

His Excellency Sheikh Hamdan Bin Zayed Al Nahayan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of the United Arab Emirates;

His Excellency Sheikh Muhammad Bin Mubarak Al Khalifa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Bahrain;

His Royal Highness Prince Saud al-Faisal, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Saudi Arabia;

His Excellency Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic;

His Excellency Mr. Yusuf Bin Alawi Bin Abdullah, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs of Oman;

His Excellency Sheikh Salim Al-Sabah, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Kuwait;

His Excellency Mr. Amre Moussa, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Egypt.

With resolute confidence and with a firm determination to confront the dangers, challenges and problems facing the Arab nation at the present stage of its history and consolidate existing intra-national links, and with a view to achieving this end, the Ministers affirmed that the Damascus Declaration was an expression of the commitment of the eight countries to joint Arab action, inasmuch as they were unanimous on its essential and important character as the soundest means of protecting the interests and future of our Arab nation. The Declaration embodies principles for the evolution of a new Arab order, to be achieved within the framework of the League of Arab States, in which other Arab States with the same outlook as that of the Declaration may participate so as to affirm respect for the principles of the Pact of the League of Arab States and commitment to the provisions of the Joint Defence and Economic Cooperation Treaty between the States of the Arab League which provide the basis on which joint Arab action is governed.

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs discussed developments in the peace process, heard the presentation made by His Excellency Mr. Farouk Al-Shara', Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Syrian Arab Republic, and attended with

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interest to the ongoing efforts aimed at ending the Arab-Israeli conflict and reaching a comprehensive, durable and just solution to the Palestine issue on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the principle of land for peace. The Ministers expressed their appreciation for the efforts being made by the co-sponsors of the Peace Conference.

The Ministers noted with great satisfaction the efforts being made by the Arab parties participating in the rounds of bilateral negotiations as an expression of the desire for peace, and they expressed their high regard for the constructive positions set forth in the paper presented by the delegation of the Syrian Arab Republic during the recent round of bilateral peace talks in Washington.

The Ministers affirmed that a durable, comprehensive and just peace could be achieved only with Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories, including Jerusalem and the Golan, and by enabling the Palestinian people to exercise its legitimate right to self-determination.

Given that peace is an integral whole, piecemeal solutions cannot guarantee the stability, security and prosperity of the region. In that light, the Ministers expressed their full support and backing for the positions adopted by the Arab parties in the bilateral peace negotiations, which affirm a desire for a comprehensive and just peace and the rejection of piecemeal solutions.

The Ministers reviewed the progress made in the negotiations on the draft convention banning chemical weapons, and they expressed their satisfaction with the convention's goals. In this connection, the Ministers stressed the importance of the need for Israel, as well as the other States of the Middle East region, to adhere to the convention and to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the international safeguards regime, in accordance with the principle of equality and justice, and to ensure the security of all States in the region without discrimination. The non-adherence of any State in the region to either of the two instruments or the accordance of special treatment to any State in the region would render the entire issue devoid of seriousness and efficacy. The Ministers call upon Israel to undertake to rid itself of its nuclear weapons and subject its nuclear installations to the international safeguards regime with a timeliness that would promote universality of accession to the chemical weapons convention and ensure that the Middle East is a region free of all weapons of mass destruction. The Ministers urge the international community to endeavour to induce Israel to enter into such compliance.

The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the persistence of the Iraqi regime in its failure to comply with the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression against Kuwait and at its persistent violation of the terms of the cease-fire established by Security Council resolution 687 (1990) by continuing to keep in detention Kuwaiti citizens and third-country nationals, by boycotting the work of the Iraq-Kuwait Boundary Demarcation Commission and rejecting its recommendations, by its

procrastination in the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on the payment of compensation for the damages arising out of its aggression and by its dilatoriness in the return of all Kuwaiti property.

The Ministers condemn the Iraqi regime's continuing practice of making hostile statements and mounting threats against Kuwait and the States members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, by which it jeopardizes security and stability in the region. They affirm their full support and backing for Kuwait in confronting these threats. The Ministers further expressed their satisfaction at the adoption of Security Council resolution 773 (1992), in which the Council underlines its guarantee of the inviolability of the international boundary between Kuwait and Iraq, contributing as it does to the achievement of peace and stability in the region.

The Ministers once more affirm that Iraq must implement all of the Security Council resolutions relating to its aggression without procrastination, dissimulation or selectivity and that it must release forthwith Kuwaiti and other prisoners and detainees and bring this human tragedy to an end.

The Ministers renewed the expression of their strong desire for the preservation of the unity and territorial integrity of Iraq, and they hold the Iraqi regime fully responsible for the sufferings being endured by the Iraqi people as a result of that regime's refusal to implement Security Council resolutions 706 (1991) and 712 (1991).

They commend the concern shown by the international community to halt the campaigns of annihilation being waged by the Iraqi regime against the Iraqi people, and they hold that regime responsible for the consequences.

The Ministers attended with great concern to the measures taken by Iran on the island of Abu Musa and to the recent events unfolding there. They expressed strong condemnation of the unwarranted measures it had taken on the island in violation of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the United Arab Emirates and in a manner incompatible with international law and with the principles of respect for the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, of non-intervention in the internal affairs of States, of the rejection of resort to force or the threat of use of force and of the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The Ministers call upon the Islamic Republic of Iran to honour the Memorandum of Understanding agreed upon by the Emirate of Sharjah and Iran at the relevant time, and they stress that the island of Abu Musa became the responsibility of the Government of the United Arab Emirates at the time the federation was established. They further express their outright rejection of the continued occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb islands belonging to the United Arab Emirates.

The Ministers, expressing the hope that the Islamic Republic of Iran will review the position it has taken on this issue, affirm their full support for

the United Arab Emirates in retaining its full sovereignty over the island of Abu Musa and their unconditional backing for the measures it may take in order to assert that sovereignty.

The Ministers expressed their deep concern at the continued suffering of the Somali people and at the fact that women and children in particular are being subjected to famine, death and displacement.

They reaffirmed the support and backing of their countries for Somalia in its grievous plight and their hope for a restoration of security and stability to that fraternal country. They renewed the expression of their resolve to provide timely relief assistance to the fraternal Somali people, and they urged the international community to expedite the provision of food aid and medical assistance. They expressed their support for the efforts being made by the Security Council to reinforce the United Nations forces operating in Somalia in order to achieve security and stability.

The Ministers, expressing their sympathy with the fraternal Somali people, call upon all Somali national forces to halt the bloodshed, overcome differences and give priority to the national interest so as to preserve the unity and integrity of the national territory and to cooperate fully with the efforts of the United Nations aimed at convening a national reconciliation conference in accordance with Security Council resolution 733 (1992).

The Ministers expressed their great anxiety at the tragic situation prevailing in Bosnia and Herzegovina and their rejection of the aggression committed against it and of the forcible annexation of territory. They condemn the mass liquidation that has taken place and the violations of the human rights of the peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina being committed there by the Serbs.

The Ministers welcomed the United Nations resolutions adopted on the question, in particular Security Council resolution 771 (1992) and the resolution of the Commission on Human Rights on the situation of human rights in the territory of the former Yugoslavia, just as they welcomed the results achieved by the London Conference on the former Socialist Federal Republic.

The Ministers call for the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia and Herzegovina to be honoured, for the rule of international law to be invoked and for the principles of the Charter of the United Nations to be respected. They further call for the speedy withdrawal of all regular and irregular Serbian forces in the area, for the deployment of United Nations peace-keeping forces and for the achievement of a lasting settlement that will ensure peace and security and respect for the interests of all parties.

The Ministers stressed the importance of economic cooperation between their countries and, to coordinate such cooperation, they recommended the establishment of a committee of their countries' ministers of finance and economy in order to submit recommendations to the Governments of the Damascus

Declaration countries. The Ministers agreed that the State of Qatar should undertake to coordinate the scheduling of the first meeting, and they adopted a number of recommendations for submission to their Governments.

The Ministers agreed to hold their next meeting at Abu Dhabi at the kind invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates.

The Ministers expressed their gratitude and appreciation to the fraternal State of Qatar, its Government and its people, for hosting the meeting and for the warm reception and generous hospitality they had received, and they stated that they looked with anticipation to the convening of their next meeting.